

REMARKS

Claims 1-37, 39-56, 58-75, 77-93 and 96-118 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-17, 20-37, 39-42, 45-56, 58-61, 64-75, 77-80, 83-93, 96-102, 104-115, 117 and 118 stand rejected.

Claims 18, 19, 43, 44, 62, 63, 81, 82, 103 and 116 stand objected to.

Claims 1-2, 17-18, 33-34, 42-43, 52-53, 61-62, 90, 104 and 112 have been amended.

Claims 71-75 and 77-89 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18, 19, 43, 44, 62, 63, 81, 82, 103, and 116 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to express his appreciation for the indicated allowability of claims 18, 19, 43, 44, 62, 63, 81, 82, 103, and 116. In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 33, 52, 90, 104 and 112 to include pertinent limitations of certain of the objected to claims, as well as those of corresponding intervening claims. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 33, 52, 90, 104 and 112, as well as all claims depending thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 71-75 and 77-89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot, as claims 71-75 and 77-89 have been cancelled.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-17, 20-37, 39-42, 45-56, 58-61, 64-75, 77-80, 83-93, 96-102, 104-115, 117, and 118 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Antur et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,212,558. *See* Office Action, p. 4.

While not conceding that the cited reference qualifies as prior art, but instead to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to respectfully traverse the rejection in light of the amendments made to independent claims 1, 33, 52, 90, 104 and 112. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 33, 52, 90, 104 and 112 to include limitations of allowable claims, and so believe this rejection to be overcome thereby. Applicants reserve the right, for example, in a continuing application, to establish that the cited reference, or other references cited now or hereafter, do not qualify as prior art as to an invention embodiment previously, currently, or subsequently claimed.

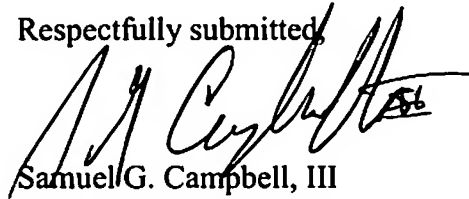
Applicants, having amended independent claims 1, 33, 52, 90, 104 and 112 to include pertinent limitations of certain of the objected to claims, as well as those of corresponding intervening claims, therefore respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome thereby, and that claims 1, 33, 52, 90, 104 and 112 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5094.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. G. Campbell, III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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